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THE THICK-BILLED PARROT IN ARIZONA

By AUSTIN PAUL SMITH

AN immense flock of this species (*Rhynchositta pachyrhyncha*) were observed by miners at Bonita Park, near Cochise head in the Chiricahua Mountains, during the month of August, 1904. They were first noticed about noon of the 26th, by a Mr. Dufferik, and were then feeding on pinyon nuts. Some of the birds were on the ground, searching for the fallen nuts. Their confiding nature, and the fact that they roosted in the trees nearby, enabled Mr. Dufferik to capture one alive, a bird of the year, and now in possession of his sister who resides at Globe, A. T. Seven birds were also shot by him, and others by men in the camp. The parrots remained four days before finally disappearing.

This flock was estimated at from 700 to 1000, by those who observed the birds.



A WILD THICK-BILLED PARROT, PHOTOGRAPHED
IN SOUTHERN ARIZONA

Among these were a number of young birds, easily distinguished by plumage and smaller size.

Their appearance greatly excited the miners, who were inclined to consider it a lucky sign, with "strikes" sure to follow.

The tameness of the birds, along with their inquisitive disposition, gave ample opportunity for photographing them, and the view here presented is among the snapshots secured.

I am inclined to believe from conversation with men who have spent considerable time in the southern Arizona mountains, that *Rhynchositta pachyrhyncha* may be looked for every few years or so, and is not nearly as casual as supposed. Also that it wanders into the Whetstone, Huachuca, and perhaps other ranges, as well as the Chiricahuas.

Benson, Arizona.